

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 686

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SANTIAGO 6263

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: CI, PINS

SUBJ: DETENTION OF CARMEN CASTILLO ECHEVERRIA

REF: KARKASHIAN/THOMPSON TELCON OCT 15

1. RE REPORTS CIRCULATING IN US THAT CARMEN CASTILLO ECHEVERRIA WILL BE EXECUTED OCT 16, EMBASSY HAS NO INFORMATION TO THAT EFFECT. ON CONTRARY, IT APPEARS THAT GOC IS PARTICULARLY CONCERNED TO SEE THAT SHE RECEIVES GOOD MEDICAL CARE.

2. OCT 14 JUNTA PRESS SPOKESMAN WILLOUGHBY REFERRED TO "CONCERN" OF CHIEF OF STATE GENERAL PINOCHET FOR CASTILLO'S CONDITION, CONCERN HE SAID WAS BASED "ON HUMANE REASONS, SINCE A WOMAN IS INVOLVED, WHO IN ADDITION IS PREGNANT. NO MATTER WHAT THE CIRCUMSTANCES WERE OF CARMEN CASTILLO'S PARTICIPATION IN THE INCIDENT OF SANTA FE STREET (SHOOTOUT IN WHICH MIGUEL ENRIQUEZ WAS KILLED), THEY DO NOT AFFECT HER CONDITION AS WOMAN AND MOTHER." GOC HAS OFFICIALLY RELEASED THE STATEMENT. PRESS REPORTS CASTILLO IS STILL UNDER CARE AT MILITARY HOSPITAL.

3. COMMENT: INTERVENTION OF PRES PINOCHET AND STATEMENT FOR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PRESS ARE EXTRAORDINARY INDICATION OF GOC CONCERN FOR CARMEN

CASTILLO'S CONDITION. WE CAN ONLY SPECULATE WHY THIS CONCERN IS SO GREAT, BUT THERE IS NO REASON NOT TO TAKE AT FACE VALUE THAT IT DERIVES IN PART AT LEAST FROM ADVANCED STATE OF CARMEN CASTILLO'S PREGNANCY. WE NOTE ALSO THAT RADIO MOSCOW BROADCASTS RECEIVED HERE HAVE SHOWN CONCERN FOR HER CONDITION; GOC MAY WANT TO FORESTALL CONCERTED ANTI-CHILEAN CAMPAIGN IN HER BEHALF.

4. AS FAR AS EMBASSY IS AWARE, CHARGES HAVE NOT BEEN MADE AGAINST CASTILLO. CONSIDERING PRES PINOCHET'S AUGUST STATEMENT AGAINST EXECUTIONS, HIS PUBLIC CONCERN FOR CASTILLO'S CONDITION, AND THE GOC'S CURRENT PROGRAM TO RELEASE DETAINEES, IT HARDLY SEEMS LIKELY SECURITY FORCES WOULD EXECUTE PREGNANT WOMAN WHOSE CASE IS INTERNATIONALLY KNOWN.
POPPER

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